GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:190
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
MOU ON SMALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH AFGHANISTAN
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Afghanistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Small Development Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress so far made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes. The Government of India has signed an MOU with the Government of Afghanistan on Small Development Projects (SDPs) on August 28, 2005.

(b) Small-scale developmental projects are short gestation with direct impact on community life.Apart from transfer of know-how and technology,this scheme will also entail grass-roots participation and community ownership through involvement of local bodies, non-governmental organizations, charitable trusts and educational and vocational institutions.These projects are primarily in area of health care, education, horticulture, water and sanitation.These projects are identified by Government of Afghanistan in consultation with local bodies concerned.

(c) 65 projects have been approved under this scheme so far and are being implemented.